



The Ledger

News from the Afro-American Club of Citrus County

2nd. Quarter 2009

PROUD CITIZEN OF THE AMERICAN DREAM:



The beauty of our great nation is only partly in spacious skies, amber waves of grain, purple mountain majesty, and fruited plains. The real beauty of America is in the potential of its people. Every country has land, but few countries have citizens with the same daring, drive, and determination of Americans. The courage of our forefathers and foremothers is part of the fabric that makes our way of life a great society. People in this day and age have the courage of the pioneers, but the expansion is not westward; it is inward. Tomorrow's pioneers will forge new trails of spirituality. This society needs more lights to lead the way to the kinder, gentler land envisioned in the original dream of a free nation. Today we have the freedom to become whatever we can see in mind. Let's envision a land without violence, a land where the good of the people is manifest in prosperity and abundance, a land where crime is no longer a challenge. Working together, Americans created the industrial revolution. It is now time for a spiritual revolution.

July 4th marks our nation's 233rd birthday. On that day, we again say with those that have gone on before us: "*In God We Trust.*" It is time for us to forge ahead, beyond the greatest achievement of our past. In the past, our wondrous achievements were in the outer, but in the future our greatest achievements will be in the inner. The patriot of tomorrow will build cities with the brick of Divine reliance and on the mortar of love. "In God We Trust" will be the foundation upon which to forge a new America. Each will accept responsibility for the renewal of America. Each

of us will value individual freedoms so much that we will see the value of being involved in the system. May the future bring the day when each American will cast a vote and participate instead of criticizing from the sidelines. The new America will see religions and churches reaching out in friendship to one another, realizing that we are all under the government of one God. Urban decay becomes gardens, darkness turns to light, and we find each neighborhood as a safe dwelling place. As we, the people, joined together in manifesting the Divine, America becomes a place of Divine order and more harmony. . . . When millions agree to consent to God, a shift in conscious awareness will take place in every town, city, and state. A new Declaration of Independence will be made against everything not up to the God love standard. Our houses will become homes of God and our churches beacons of light, showing the way for all people to become the best they can be.

Churches will no longer fight among themselves, shouting differences in doctrinal beliefs. Instead they will work together for the upliftment of humanity.

May each American realize that the final four letters of the word American spell "**I CAN.**" The dream of this free nation can be realized as each person comes into his or her own. Who can change America -- the national government, the state government, the local precinct, or the people who believe "**I CAN**"? The vision of a perfect society is not a new one; utopia has been dreamed of ever since the story of Adam and Eve. Just because we have not fully manifested this concept in the past does not make it entirely impossible. People have the vision within them because they have the vision given to them by God. They inwardly know there is a better way, a better life, and hold eternal hope for a better tomorrow.

Moment by moment, in every area, may God make America the Beautiful. —(Ian Chenoweth)

The next meeting on September 10th, will be a Potluck at the Beverly Hills Recreation Center

The President's Pen

In serving as president for the last six months I would like to thank all those on the executive board and others for helping me make a very smooth transition. The organization is continuing to move in the direction that we've been working on for the past few years.

We were very pleased with the members who helped us celebrate the group's 20th anniversary in January. We were also pleased to receive in May, recognition from the Community Action Foundation of Citrus County for our support to them both monetary and member involvements and the John T. Barnes Outstanding Community Organization Award for the various activities we've been active with over the past few years.



All the standing committees have been active in working on the things the group has decided to address. The Planning /Ways and Means Committee has been working hard at developing a calendar of activities and fund raising activities for the remainder of this year and into next year. They are addressing the desires of everyone with the hopes that we will see the members more often. Recently, a group of members enjoyed a wonderful

trip to Beaufort, South Carolina to attend the 23rd Annual Gullah Festival.

The Education Committee continues to work diligently in addressing the education needs of the community and has awarded six one thousand dollar scholarships and one \$500 grant and a special \$500 grant to the Inverness Middle School and its Exploring Technologies Class. We have continued to support the students at E-Nini-Hassee Girls Camp and the Education Committee is presently evaluating other requests for repeat scholarships.

A new committee has been appointed, the Membership Committee. Its primary focus will be addressing the issues of increasing the membership, reestablishing contact with old and not in good standing members.

We are pleased that during the summer the committees will continue to meet and work to ensure that all projects are ready for presentation in September.

We are also pleased that members continue to sign up for our partnership with Habitat for Humanity in helping to construct a home.

Have a happy, safe and rewarding summer.

Ernie Thomas, President

Computer CornerHere is a snippet:

Power failure. Your New Digital TV Plasma or LCD— after a power failure, if powering up your unit fails (DEAD) don't panic, the unit protection circuits have shut down the unit; to reboot plug out power cord from wall outlet wait about two minutes and plug back in (Walla)



- Microsoft has a new search engine (BING) try it out— really neat.
 - Miss a Soap opera or favorite TV sitcom or Movie try (Hulu)
 - Microsoft has new virus protection program for XP, find it at Microsoft download site, under Malicious Software Removal - tool KB890830
- All the above are FREE!**

April Birthdays

George Schmalstig
Esmin Banton
Robert Watson
Cora Covington
Robert Martin
James Andrews
Martha Marcelli-Johnson
Alta Newman

May Birthdays

Olivia Dyson
Lydia Valentine
Doris Porter
Esther Salters
Denis Smith
Clarence Redd
Roosevelt Salters



June Birthdays

Carol Bowers
Jymie Charles
Marlene Harrison
Herb Valentine
Pauline Bowe
Robert Shelton
Essie Palmer

Pool Safety Tips

Here are some truths about children who drown and what you can do to help keep your children/grandchildren safe around water.

- **Weak or no supervision:** Children drown quickly and silently in a matter of seconds. Adults present are often distracted in some way, either by talking on the phone, chatting with other adults or reading.
- **No Barriers:** Curious children can easily find and fall into the water, often they are discovered too late.
- **Weak or no CPR Skills:** Drowning victims who are rescued from the water need CPR immediately, before the paramedics arrive. It can prevent brain damage and be the difference between life and death.
- **Weak or no swimming ability:** Children from non-swimming households are eight times more likely to be at risk of drowning. Minority children have especially low rates of swimming ability and high rates of drowning.
- **Nearly 5,000 boating accidents** occur each year in open waters and more than 700 people drown. Of those who drown, nine out of ten are not wearing a life jacket. Also alcohol use is involved in up to one in five reported boating fatalities.

Precautions and advice you can take:

Actively supervise children around the pool and have a phone handy to call for help in case there is an emergency.

- Never leave a child alone when in or near a body of water. There are plenty of CPR classes available, get certified and enroll children in swim classes, and if you don't swim enroll in a learn-to-swim class yourself. Have children wear life jackets.

For more information and safety tips visit:

www.usa.safekids.org

GULLAH FESTIVAL, BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA

The 23rd annual festival was celebrated on May 22—24, 2009 and a group of club members enjoyed a wonderful trip to Beaufort, South Carolina to attend the event. On the bus tour of the area, we visited one of the few remaining Praise Houses there. We learned that Praise Houses were built by slaves on plantations for worship services, and they were allowed to be used twice each week. The wooden structures were tiny, so that only a few people could congregate. This time was used to communicate and encourage each other

despite the endless frustrations of life as a slave. The Gullah language enabled the slaves to communicate with each other without being understood by the overseers. Today, Praise House performances are portrayed as hopeful experiences and the jubilation pays homage to a painful experience that is history.



On the Afro-American Club of Citrus County's web site you will see these two logos



If you click on these two logos you will be re-directed to the Afro-American Club **“ON LINE SHOPPING MALL”**. With this link, you will have access to over 1,000 vendors such as:

- Macy's
- Amazon
- Dell
- HP
- Orbitz
- Avenue
- Target
- Air France
- Air Alaska
- Cars Direct
- K-Mart
- J & R Records
- AOL
- Barnes & Noble
- Bath & Body
- Bose
- Best Buy
- And More.....

Why is this important?

If you make a purchase using this link, the Afro-American Club will receive a donation from these vendors.

If you have an existing online account with any of these vendors, and you use our link, your log on and password will remain **confidential and SECURED**. We are only a gateway to the vendor. We do not change, alter or impact the relationship between you and the vendor.

The price you pay will remain the same with or without the link. Its just that the club will receive a donation with the link.

If you have questions about the link or how to use the service, contact **Gil Martinez** at our monthly meetings or send an email to webmaster@afro-americanclub.org

GETTING TO KNOW YOU:



- Name:** Judge Allen
- Family:** Wife Joan, two children Linda and Wayne and one Grand daughter
- Relocated from:** Port Washington, MD
- Favorite meal:** Seafood in general, especially Coconut shrimp.
- Hobbies:** Handyman
- Best book I've read:** Megatrends
- My role model is:** My father

People would be surprised that I'm not a member of the judicial system, (Judge is my name, **not my title**) ! I also love watching mystery movies.

To unwind I go swimming or read a good book.

Favorite vacation destinations: Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and Aruba.

If I could sing, I'd sing like Billy Eckstein!

People describe me as cheerful and inspirational.

I like our club because we have grown within the community and continue to offer help in a variety of ways.

Stay tuned for exciting news on fun and fundraising ideas from the Planning/Ways & Means Committee. You'll not want to miss the **POTLUCK** scheduled for **SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2009** at Beverly Hills Recreation Center.

From : The Afro-American Club of Citrus County
P.O Box 641103
Hernando , FL 34442

NEWS FROM HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:
We are invited to attend the dedication of a home on
July 11th and Wall Raising for the Harrison home on
July 18th. Visit website for details.

To : Club Member

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the U.S. Dating back to 1865, it was on June 19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. This was actually two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was officially issued by President Lincoln on January 1, 1863. This had very little impact on the Texans as there were a small number of Union troops to enforce the executive order. However, the surrender of General Lee and the arrival of General Grainger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance. Since then, Juneteenth has been a day of celebration for many African Americans, an "Independence Day" commemorating the end of slavery and a first step toward inclusion in the greater American dream. It's a bittersweet holiday, "a time of celebration, but also a time of reflection, healing, and hopefully a time for the country to come together and deal with its slave legacy," says the Rev. Ronald V. Meyers, chairman of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation. Rev. Meyers has worked for almost 15 years to get Juneteenth recognized by state legislatures. Currently, a little more than half of U.S. states acknowledge Juneteenth in some form or another, usually on the third Saturday of June. However, only the state of Texas recognize it as a legal state holiday. Nebraska is now the 30th state to recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday or state holiday observance.

2009 Scholarship Awards:

The awards were presented in memory of club members **Donald Bell, Marguerite Pinkston and William Covington.**

J.T. Hutcherson, 2009 recipient of a Bill Gates award, which will cover all of his college expenses, relinquished his award back to the AACCC to be used for another deserving student.